

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) Method for validating consistency of entities stored in data sets of a multitude of different IT systems,  
whereas a consistency service comprises  
    an input buffer in which an entity to be validated for consistency can be placed,  
    output means in which the result of the consistency validation can be stored and  
    communication means to communicate with the different IT systems,  
whereas an adapter for each of the IT systems allows communication between the consistency service and the IT systems, such that a signal sent by the consistency service to verify the existence of a specific data set of an IT system can be sent back to the consistency service if that specific data set exists, and  
whereas a storage device holds references to the entity in the data sets of the various IT systems such that the entity in a specific IT system can be addressed,  
said method comprising the following steps:  
loading the entity to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service,

the consistency service sending a signal to verify the existence of a specific data set of an IT system to the IT system holding the entity to be validated for consistency, storing a consistency validating information in the output means, said consistency validating information depending on the signal being sent back to the consistency service.

2. (Original) Method as in claim 1, further comprising the following step:  
logging failure of consistency validation if no signal is being sent back to the consistency service, by adding the entity, which was to be validated for consistency, and the IT system, which was not replying to the signal, to a log file.

3 (Original) Method as in claim 1, further comprising the following step:  
the consistency service checking the communication to the IT system holding the data set to be verified prior to sending the signal to verify the existence of the specific data set of that IT system.

4. (Original) Method as in claim 1, further comprising the following steps:  
loading a multitude of entities to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service, and  
the consistency, service successively processing the entities to be validated for consistency, sending out signals and storing consistency validating information in the output means.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product loadable into an internal memory of a digital computer, comprising computer program code means to make, when said program is loaded in the computer, the computer execute the method of ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.